a whole, not being possible, the only alternative left was to wind it up. However, keeping in view the employment of large number of workers, the Bench fell that attempts to revive at least some of the units of the company by their sale through public tenders be made. BIFR has accordingly directed ICICI to prepare and submit the proposed tender papers for sale of the units of Metal Box.

Income-tax return filed by Chairman Indian Express Group

2671. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1094 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the Chairman, Indian Express Group has field the Income-Tax Returns in pursuance of the notice issued under Section 139(2) of the Income-Tax Act for the year 1988-89;

(b) whether the same has been assessed by the Income-Tax authorities; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the penalty, if any, imposed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir on 23.8.1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Revival of Sick Industries by BIFR

2672 SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many sick industries have been revived by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and how many industries were directed by it to be closed down during the last three years; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred by Government on BIFR during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) As on 31.3.1990, Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has accorded approval in 99 cases to make companies' net-worth positive on its own within a reasonable time, and has sanctioned revival/rehabilitation schemes for another 89 units. BIFR has recommended 55 units for winding up and has ordered the sale of 1 unit.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on BIFR upto 31-3-1990 is Rs. 4,18,51,050/-.

Comprehensive review of the Banking System in the Country

2673. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive review of the working of the banking system in the country has been made in regard to the (i) progress in the opening of new branches of the nationalised banks in rural and urban areas to provide better and efficient banking service (ii) banks lending to the priority sector including agriculture, road transport, small scale sector and self-employment etc. and (iii) adequacy or otherwise of the measures taken so far to check banking frauds;

(b) if so when and by which authority such a review was made;

(c) what are the salient features of the findings/suggestions of the reviewing authority; and

(d) what steps are being contemplated by the Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) The working of the banking system in the

country is subject to continuing review by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The opening of new branches of nationalised banks in rural and urban areas is governed by the Branch Licensing Policy formulated by RBI from time to time, and such policy is modified to meet the felt banking needs of the people and the objectives of the Government. The banks' lending to the Priority Sector is regularly reviewed by the concerned Boards of Directors of the banks, by RBI and by Government. The measures taken for banks' security and prevention of banking frauds are also reviewed periolically. The banks are also inspected by the RBI and by firms *of Chartered Accountants as well as by the internal vigilance machinery of the banks. Steps are taken wherever required to correct any lacunae in the functioning of the banks that emerge from these reviews.

Denial of maximum limit of rent charges to Officers of Nationalised Banks

2674. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers of the nationalised banks are being denied the maximum limit of the rent charges to which they are entitled in cases of renewal of lease for the old premises in their occupation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these officers can avail of the same limit for hiring the new premises for their residential use; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons there for any by when this disparity is being removed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) The Indian Banks' Association has reported that in terms of Service Regulations applicable to officer in banks, revised with effect from 1.11.87, House Rent Allowance (HRA) is paid to officers, not provided with bank's accommodation, at specified rates subject to laid down ceilings. The House Rent Allowance payable to officers is without reference to rent actually paid by the officers. The officers may opt to claim HRA with reference to rent actually paid *i.e.* on production of rent receipt for which higher ceilings have been fixed. As such, officers who stay in old premises for which the rentals are low are paid HRA, irrespective of without reference to rentals actually paid by them.

माल का आयात

2675. **श्री राम नरेश यादव :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं जहां से सरकार ने जनवरी, 1990 से जुलाई, 1990 के दौरान माल आयात करने का फैसला किया है और कितने मूल्य का माल आयात किए जाने की संभावना है)

(ख) वर्ष 1990-91 के दौरान कुल कितने करोड़ रुपए मूल्य के माल का आयात किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) क्या आयात में कमी करने की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल शास्त्री) : (क) और (ख). व्यापार यवस्थाओं के अन्तर्गत रुपया अदायगी क्षेत्र के देशों के साथ आयात के अतिरिक्त अन्य कोई देशवार आयात योजना नहीं बनाई जाती है । व्यापार व्यवस्थाओं में केवल निदेशात्मक लक्ष्यों का उल्लेख किया जाता है । आयात नीति और प्रक्रियाओं के अनुसार गैर-सरकारी और सरकारी क्षेत्रों दोनों ही पक्षों द्वारा वास्तविक आयात किये जाते हैं । इसलिए, आयातों के सुनिश्चित आंकड़े निर्दिष्ट करना व्यवहार्य नहीं है ।